

# Trinidad-Tobago

## Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

### FACT SHEET . . . . .



The Trinidad-Tobago GYTS includes data on prevalence of cigarette and other tobacco use as well as information on five determinants of tobacco use: access/availability and price, environmental tobacco smoke exposure (ETS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are components Trinidad-Tobago could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Trinidad-Tobago GYTS was a school-based survey of students in Forms 1-5, conducted in 2000. A two-stage cluster

sample design was used to produce representative data for all of Trinidad-Tobago. At the first stage, schools were selected with probability proportional to enrollment size. At the second stage, classes were randomly selected and all students in selected classes were eligible to participate. The school response rate was 89.1%, the student response rate was 85.6%, and the overall response rate was 76.2%. A total of 2,661 students participated in the Trinidad-Tobago GYTS.

### Prevalence

40.3% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Male = 46.5%, Female = 32.6%)  
 16.3% currently use any tobacco product (Male = 19.5%, Female = 11.7%)  
 14.0% currently smoke cigarettes (Male = 17.6%, Female = 9.5%)  
 5.4% currently use other tobacco products (Male = 6.3%, Female = 3.9%)  
 12.4% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

### Knowledge and Attitudes

32.2% think boys and 17.8% think girls who smoke have more friends

### Access and Availability - Current Smokers

33.6% usually smoke at home  
 31.9% buy cigarettes in a store  
 81.5% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

### Environmental Tobacco Smoke

38.0% live in homes where others smoke  
 67.6% are around others who smoke in places outside their home  
 83.9% think smoking should be banned from public places  
 68.7% think smoke from others is harmful to them  
 37.8% have one or more parents who smoke  
 7.6% have most or all friends who smoke

### Cessation - Current Smokers

69.4% want to stop smoking  
 76.5% tried to stop smoking during the past year  
 61.8% have ever received help to stop smoking

### Media and Advertising

76.9% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days  
 83.6% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days  
 80.3% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days  
 19.4% have an object with a cigarette brand logo  
 11.1% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

### School

43.9% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking  
 31.1% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke  
 40.2% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

### Highlights

- 16% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 14% currently smoke cigarettes; 5% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- ETS exposure is very high – About 4 in 10 students live in homes where others smoke; about 7 in 10 are exposed to smoke in public places; 4 in 10 have parents who smoke.
- Over 8 in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- 6 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Almost 7 in 10 smokers want to stop.
- Almost 8 in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; 8 in 10 students saw pro-cigarette ads in the past 30 days.